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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,178	12/27/2000	Takuya Uchiyama	1614.1108	2991

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EXAMINER

LAO, LUN YI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2629

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/748,178	Applicant(s) UCHIYAMA, TAKUYA	
	Examiner LUN-YI LAO	Art Unit 2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The recitation of "a processing unit enabling an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation by calculating a distance between a final coordinate value of a previous operation and a beginning coordinate value of a current input operation by said input unit" in claims 1, 5, 9, 17, 21, 25, 29, and 33 does not disclosed in the specification. The specification only disclose a coordinate input device is set in an absolute mode when the contact area is less than a predetermined value C or the off-contact time is less than the predetermined time T1(see figures 4A-5 , 7; paragraphs 48-55 and 69-73). The specification only disclose a calculation unit(S57, figures 6 and 8) for calculating a distance between a final coordinate value of a previous operation

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and beginning coordinate value of a current input operation when the coordinate input device is in a relative mode(see figures 6, 8; paragraphs 64 and 82). Such recitation should be changed to "a calculation unit for calculating a distance between a final coordinate value of a previous operation(or an absolute mode) and a beginning coordinate value of a current input operation(or a relative mode) by said input unit.

The recitation of "enabling an absolute coordinate value mode inputting operation by setting a coordinate value of a first inputting as the final coordinate value ... if a second inputting has not occurred for a predetermine time" in claim 13 does not disclosed in the specification. The specification only disclose a relative mode(a first mode) input operation by setting a coordinate value of a first inputting as the final coordinate value as a first inputting if a second inputting has not occurred for a predetermine time(see figure 7 and paragraph 70). Such recitation should be changed to "enabling a **relative** coordinate value mode inputting operation by setting a coordinate value of a first inputting as the final coordinate value ... if a second inputting has not occurred for a predetermine time".

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The recitation of "the off-contact time is longer than the predetermined time T1" should be changed to -- the off-contact time is **shorter** than the predetermined time T1" on page 18, lines 10-12.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by
Toshiaki(JP02-288913)

Toshiaki teaches a writing device comprising a detector(3) for detecting a plurality of input signals from a writing instrument(1, stylus or pen); and switch(5) for switching between a relative coordinate value and an absolute coordinate mode based on the detected input signals and the detector(3) detects a coordinate value based on the switching(see figures 1, 3, 4 and abstract).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaultier et al(6,034,672) in view of Yoshinobu et al(5,777,065)

Gaultier et al teach a writing device comprising a detector(1) for detecting a plurality of input signals from a pointer(finger); and switch(11, 12) for switching between a relative coordinate value and an absolute coordinate mode based on the detected input signals and the detector(1) detects a coordinate value based on the switching(see figures 3, 4; abstract; column 2, lines 60-68; column 3, lines 1-16 and lines 60-68; and column 4, lines 1-28).

Gaultier et al fail to a writing instrument.

Yoshinobu et al teach a writing instrument(pen)(see figures 3-4, 15; column 5, lines 18-40). It would have been obvious to have modified Gaultier et al with the teaching of Yoshinobu et al, since Yoshinobu et al have disclosed a pointer would be a pen or finger(see column 5, lines 18-21) and a user could enter data quickly into a computer system with the pen tool.

8. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-10, 17-18, 21-22, 25-26, 29-30 and 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicants' admitted prior in view of Yoshikawa(5,790,105).

The limitation of a processing unit enabling an "absolute coordinate value mode" as cited in claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, and 33 will not be considered on the below rejections.

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As to claim 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29 and 33, Applicants' admitted prior art teaches a coordinate detection device, comprising an input unit (input panel, S10), having a surface thereof, to which a coordinate value is input by an input means device(see figures 1-2 and paragraphs 4-5); a determination unit(S16) determines an operation mode of the input unit(input panel)(see figure 1 and paragraphs 10); a calculation unit (S19) for calculating the distance between a previous coordinate value and a current coordinate value(see figures 1, 4-8; abstract and paragraphs 11-12).

Applicant's admitted prior art fail to set the final coordinate value at a time when an input device is detached from the surface of the input device and the calculate distance is transmitted to a host apparatus as to prevent the current input operation from being connected to the previous input operation on a display.

Yoshikawa teaches a method for setting the final coordinate value(X_{n-1} , Y_{n-1}) at a time when an input device is detached from the surface of the input device(pressure remove from a tablet sheet) and the calculate distance($X_n - X_{n-1}$, $Y_n - Y_{n-1}$) is transmitted to a host apparatus as to prevent the current input operation from being connected to the previous input operation on a display(5)(see figures 1-5; column 3, lines 50-68; column 4, lines 1-47; column 8, lines 66-68; columns 9-10; column 11, lines 1-17; column 12, lines 55-68; column 13 and column 14, lines 1-42). It would have been obvious to have modified Applicants' admitted prior art with the teaching of Yoshikawa, so the absolute and relative modes could be automatically switched by detecting the contact area without need to press a button(see column 14 and lines 18-23) and provide a better character recognition system.

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As to claims 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26, 30 and 34, Applicants' admitted prior art as modified teach the detection unit having a control unit(10) that enables or disable the setting unit based on determination result of the determination unit(see Yoshikawa's figure 4; abstract; column 6, lines 62-68; column 7, lines 1-24 and column 10, lines 26-36; Applicants' admitted prior art' s figure 1. and paragraph 11).

9. Claims 3, 7, 11, 19, 23, 27, 31 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior in view of Yoshikawa(5,790,105) and Yoshinobu et al(5,777,605).

As to claim 3, 7, 11, 19, 23, 27, 31 and 35, Applicants' admitted prior art as modified fails to determine the operation mode of the input unit based on a contact area formed by a contact of the input means.

Yoshinobu et al teach the determination unit(61) determines the operation mode of the input unit based on a contact area formed by a contact of the input means(finger or stylus) with the surface of the input unit(51)(see figures 4-5; column 5, lines 25-68 and column 6, lines 1-50). It would have been obvious to have modified Applicants' admitted prior art as modified with the teaching of Yoshinobu et al, so it would be more easy and accurate to determine which mode should be selected.

10. Claims 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior in view of Yoshikawa(5,790,105) and Suzuki et al(5,561,447).

As to claims 37-39, Applicants' admitted prior art as modified fail to set a coordinate value of a first inputting as the final coordinate value input of the first inputting if a second inputting has not occurred for a predetermined of time.

Suzuki et al teach a computer medium for storing a coordinate value of a first inputting as the final coordinate value input of the first inputting(pen-down) if a second inputting has not occurred for a predetermined of time(see figures 1, 4, 7, 11; abstract; column 2, lines 25-32 and column 7, lines 43-55). It would have been obvious to have modified Applicants' admitted prior art as modified with the teaching of Suzuki et al, the error coordinate input data could be prevented(see abstract).

As to claim 38, applicants' admitted prior art teach the control unit that enables or disable the setting unit based on determination result of the determination unit(see figure 1 and paragraph 11).

As to claim 39, Yoshinobu et al teach the determination unit(61) determines the operation mode of the input unit based on a contact area formed by a contact of the input means(finger or stylus) with the surface of the input unit(51)(see figures 4-5; column 5, lines 25-68 and column 6, lines 1-50).

11. Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior in view of Yoshikawa(5,790,105), Suzuki et al(5,561,447) and Yoshinobu et al(5,777,605).

As to claim 39, Applicants' admitted prior art as modified fails to determine the operation mode of the input unit based on a contact area formed by a contact of the input means.

Yoshinobu et al teach the determination unit(61) determines the operation mode of the input unit based on a contact area formed by a contact of the input means(finger or stylus) with the surface of the input unit(51)(see figures 4-5; column 5, lines 25-68 and column 6, lines 1-50). It would have been obvious to have modified Applicants' admitted prior art as modified with the teaching of Yoshinobu et al, so it would be more easy and accurate to determine which mode should be selected.

12. Claims 4, 8, 12-14, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36-38 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior in view of Yoshikawa(5,790,105) and Louis(6,088,023).

The limitation "absolute coordinate value mode" will be considered as "relative coordinate value mode" for claim 13-14 and 16 rejection as below:

As to claims 4, 8, 12-14, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32 and 36-40, Applicants' admitted prior art fail to determine the operation mode of inputting based on a time during which input device is detached from the surface of the input unit.

Louis teaches a coordinate input device for determining the operation mode of inputting based on a time during which input device(finger or stylus) is detached from the surface of the input unit(16, 18)(when a finger or stylus detached from the surface less than a predetermine period(touching twice rapidly), the input device is in an absolute mode, when a finger or stylus detached from the surface more than a predetermine period(a single touch), the input device is in a relative mode(see figures 1A-2 and column 5, lines 46-55). It would have been obvious to have modified

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Applicants' admitted prior art with the teaching of Louis, so it would be more easy and accurate to determine which mode should be selected.

13. Claims 15 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior in view of Yoshikawa(5,790,105), Louis and Yoshinobu et al(5,777,605).

As to claims 15 and 39, Applicants' admitted prior art as modified fails to determine the operation mode of the input unit based on a contact area formed by a contact of the input means.

Yoshinobu et al teach the determination unit(61) determines the operation mode of the input unit based on a contact area formed by a contact of the input means(finger or stylus) with the surface of the input unit(51)(see figures 4-5; column 5, lines 25-68 and column 6, lines 1-50). It would have been obvious to have modified Applicants' admitted prior art as modified with the teaching of Yoshinobu et al, so as to provide an alternative way for a user easily to select an absolute mode and a relative mode.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ishibashi(JP 09-258901) teaches a coordinate input device comprising absolute and relative modes.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lun-yi Lao whose telephone number is 571-272-7671. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

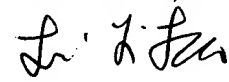
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lun-yi Lao'.

Lun-yi Lao
Primary Examiner